



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

April 10, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you in advance for your leadership in addressing the potential closure of both the commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in California and along the West Coast.

Today, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) made a final recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to close the commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in California and along the West Coast for the 2008 season.

Along with my fellow governors from the states of Oregon and Washington, I have asked U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez to declare a federal fisheries disaster due to the catastrophic decline in Central Valley Chinook salmon. I anticipate that the Secretary will declare a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster pursuant to Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

California has invested millions of dollars in restoring salmon habitats through partnerships with the federal government, local agencies and nonprofits. These investments provide significant economic and ecological benefits. The decline in the West Coast salmon populations will have dire consequences to the salmon industry.

A closed season will impact commercial and recreational fishermen, their communities and the businesses that depend on them far more severely than the 2006 restrictions imposed on the Klamath River Fall Chinook salmon fisheries. Indeed, current total economic impacts to California by the closure of these fisheries are projected to be approximately \$255 million, with a loss of 2,263 industry-related jobs.

Based upon the economic impacts associated with the loss of the 2008 fishing season, I intend to declare that a state of emergency exists in the state of California.

Attached, please find our assessment of the anticipated economic impacts to recreational, commercial and seafood industries in the state, as well as the impacts on state government. We are requesting your help and that of Congress in obtaining federal disaster assistance to relieve the state of emergency.

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Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", with a stylized, cursive script.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation